Mr. D. NARAYANA RAJU :—" May I know whether the dismissal of petitions is somewhat unusual in this court or is it a normal practice ? "

The hon. Sir NORMAN MARJORIBANKS :—" I could not say. I presume that it is the usual course to decree ex parte when the parties are not present when their cases are called."

Mr. D. NARAYANA RAJU :—" May I know whether the dismissal of so many suits has taken place only after the advent of the present Revenue Divisional Officer, and what was the number dismissed by the previous Divisional Officer ? "

The hon. Sir NORMAN MARJORIBANKS :—" That will be a matter for examination and I must ask for notice."

Mr. D. NARAYANA RAJU :—" With reference to the answers (*c*) and (*d*), considering that the relations between the present officer and the bar are strained—I am referring to the answer to question No. 1466—may I know whether the Government would be pleased to consider the desirability of transferring this particular gentleman from that place ? " 11-15 a.m.

The hon. Sir NORMAN MARJORIBANKS :—" I am afraid that Government cannot undertake to transfer any officer on allegations reported to have been baseless."

Mr. D. NARAYANA RAJU :—" May I know whether the Government have taken any pains to ascertain whether the allegations made by the members of the bar—I am referring to the answer given to question No. 1466—are true or not ? "

The hon. Sir NORMAN MARJORIBANKS :—" Yes, Sir ; I recollect that the answer stated that report had been obtained from the Collector."

Public Holidays

Holiday to Muhammadans for 'Arfa.'

*1638 *Q.*—Mr. MAHMUD SCHAMNAD SAHIB : Will the hon. the Member for Revenue be pleased to state—

(*a*) whether a Government Order was issued removing from the list of sectional holidays for Muhammadans, the 9th day of the month of Zulhajj which is the day preceding the Bakrid festival, usually known as 'Arfa' ;

(*b*) whether the Government are aware that 'Arfa' is a very important holiday in which all Muhammadans have to fast and that unlike Gyarween Shareef which is also an important holiday, it is observed by all sections of Muslims ;

(*c*) whether the Muslim public consulted by Government have agreed to the substitution of Gyarween Shareef on the 11th day of Rabi-us Sani for the said sectional holiday for Bakrid ;

(*d*) if so, who the Muhammadans are who have been consulted ; and

(*e*) whether the Government will be pleased to include 'Arfa' also among the sectional holidays for Muhammadans in view of its great importance ?

A.—(*a*) No. If the hon. Member refers to G.O. No. 87, Public, dated 26th January 1929, the effect of that Government Order was to substitute a sectional holiday on account of 'Gyarween Shareef' for that previously allowed on account of the day following (not preceding) the general holiday for 'Bakrid.'

(*b*) The Government's information is that there is no general fasting at 'Arfa', on account of which a holiday has never been granted.

(*c*) & (*d*) On the reports of the Collectors who ascertained Muslim opinion in their respective districts, the Government decided that the substitution referred to in the answer to clause (*a*) would best meet the needs of the case.

(*e*) The Government do not consider this to be necessary.

Mr. Abdul Hameed Khan :—"It is stated in the answer that one holiday has been substituted for another. May I know the reasons which prompted them to make this substitution? It is stated that the Government consulted the Collectors of various districts. May I ask whether they consulted the Muslim Members of this Council who moved in the matter?"

The hon. Sir Norman Marjoribanks :—"There are two questions: one is why the Government had done this; it was because the question was moved in this House. My recollection is that the Government undertook to consider the question. As this affects the transaction of public business, the Collectors of the districts were consulted. As to the second question the opinion of the Muslim Members of this Council was that there should be a holiday and so it was provided for."

Mr. Abdul Hameed Khan :—"May I know if it was the opinion of the Muslim Members of this House that there should be substitution of one holiday for another?"

The hon. Sir Norman Marjoribanks :—"The Government do not propose to allow an additional holiday, if that is what the hon. Member means."

[For further list of starred questions please see page 379 infra.]

UNSTARRED QUESTION

Irrigation

Alleged insufficiency of water-supply to the ryots of Cuddapah taluk.

1639 Q.—Mr K. Koti Reddi : Will the hon. the Member for Revenue be pleased to state—

(*a*) whether it is a fact that the ryots of the villages of Gurrampad and Nazarbakpalli of Cuddapah taluk, Cuddapah district, have been complaining for some years past, to the Collectors of Cuddapah and the Government, that they have not been receiving sufficient supply of water to their wet lands and irrigable dry lands, irrigated by a channel of the K.C. Canal and that consequently the crops under them have failed;